

PENTECOST HOMILY YEAR A

1. Enjoy reading fantasies like Harry Potter novels and science fiction
 - a. evoke wonders way beyond day to day life
 - b. Even modern science when it gets into quantum physics or intricacies of human body
 - c. Hard to understand but gives great sense of wonder
2. Same sense of wonder when I consider our faith
 - a. We believe in a God so powerful and beyond our imagination, He has created this universe
 - b. He has created the possibilities of life, perhaps life on different planets
 - c. He has given us the abilities to discover and create on our own wondrous technologies
 - i. Can make magic look tame
 - ii. Every day, we work with phones, through which we can interact with people on other side of the world in real time
 - iii. We can communicate by voice, email, instant messaging even video
 - iv. When our country was founded, the only way to communicate with someone in England would have been to send a letter on a ship and hope it would get there in a couple of weeks
 - v. Easy to take these things for granted, use everyday
 - vi. But it is good to realize what wonders we are living with
 - d. Then to step back and consider, all the laws of nature and intellectual gifts of humans all come from God
3. We believe in a God, although so powerful and beyond our understanding, actually cares about us
 - a. He has nurtured us through the centuries and loved us even when we refuse to love each other or even ourselves.
 - b. He has chosen us to represent Creation,
 - c. Not only does He care about us as a People, but he even cares for each one of us individually
4. Jesus was sent to us as People,
 - a. He became human in order to unite us with God
 - b. Through Jesus, we have the possibility of even becoming God
 - c. Although the whole human race is being offered the chance to become one with God, each of us still must make that choice
 - d. We as individual persons must decide if we are going to be a part of the Body of Christ giving praise and rejoicing in the wonders of God
5. As Jesus said even though he left the world in His visible form, God does not leave us alone as orphans
 - a. Today we celebrate God coming to us in the Holy Spirit

- b. The Spirit is a life-giving force, the breath of life
 - c. He can be as powerful as the wind or as intimate as a breath
 - d. He moves the apostles to have the courage and ability to preach Jesus to the nations and to be understood in many languages
 - e. He also gives us the ability to forgive sins or to refuse to forgive
6. Through the Holy Spirit we discover the wonder of being human
- a. God has given each of us special gifts
 - b. Each of us takes on different responsibilities and ways of serving others
 - c. We cannot survive either as isolated individuals nor as a mindless collective
 - d. We need the bonds of relationships and friendships, but we also need to discover our personal gifts
7. St. Paul describes this gift of being one and part of the many as coming from God
- a. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit
 - b. There are different forms of service but the same Lord
 - c. Different workings but the same God who produces all of them
8. St. Paul uses the analogy of the body to describe this tension between the individual and the many
- a. He describes us as being like parts of the body
 - b. Each part has its own roles to make the body work
 - c. But every part has to work together with the other parts for the body to work properly
9. God has sent the Holy Spirit to be the air that makes it possible for all the parts of the body to work together
- a. He is like the air that we breath, or the electro-chemical signals that our nerves use to communicate between the parts of the body
 - b. The ultimate role of the Holy Spirit is to make us a more perfect image of the Trinity
 - c. Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are the perfect community
 - i. Each is a distinct Person, yet somehow they are so united they are just one God
 - ii. In Genesis God created us in His image
 - iii. The Holy Spirit is working to build us into an ever more perfect image of God
 - iv. Somehow in fullness of eternal life, we will remain distinct persons but will at the same time be so united that we are the Body of Christ united with Jesus as our head